

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-03 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14

USIA-04 AID-05 COME-00 EB-03 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-01

OPIC-02 CIEP-01 LAB-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /077 W

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4512

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4980

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, NL

SUBJECT: GON INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON MULTINATIONAL
COMPANIES

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY SENIOR MFA OFFICIAL THAT GON HAS ESTABLISHED AD HOC INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE TO STUDY DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF MULTINATIONAL COMPANY OPERATIONS. THIS ACTION WAS LARGELY DICTATED BY PRESSURE FROM LEFTWING GOVERNMENT MINISTERS (E.G. DEVELOPMENT AID MINISTER PRONK), PARLIAMENTARIANS, AND PRESS, AND BY INESCAPABLE NEED FOR COHERENT DUTCH POLICY IN EC, OECD, UN AND IMF/IBRD DELIBATIONS. TASK OF COMMITTEE WILL BE TO PRODUCE POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET ON SHORT, MEDIUM AND LONG TERM COVERING BOTH NATIONAL REGULATION AND DUTCH POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

2. COMMITTEE IS CHAIRED BY MFA STATE SECRETARY BRINKHORST AND INCLUDES REPRESENTATION FROM EVERY MINISTRY. MFA REPRESENTATION INCLUDES SPOKESMAN FOR BOTH FONMIN VAN DER STOEL
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AND AID MINISTER PRONK. MINECON DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR

FOREIGN ECONOMIC RELATIONS (BEB) PROVIDES SECRETARIAT.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN WIDE SPECTRUM OF INFLUENTIAL OPINION IN GON ON THIS EMOTIVE SUBJECT IT IS DIFFICULT TO FORESEE WHAT MAY EVENTUATE FROM THIS EXERCISE. IT IS HARD TO IMAGINE, HOWEVER, THAT PREENT LAISSEZ FAIRE APPROACH TO MNC'S WILL BE PERMITTED TO CONTINUE UNDISTURBED. FIRST TARGET IS LIKELY TO BE OIL COMPANIES AND RESULT COULD BE REQUIREMENT FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY AND RESPONSIVENESS TO GOVERNMENTAL DIRECTION. WE CAN ALSO EXPECT THAT SOME ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO DISCOURAGE ABRUPT CLOSEDOWN OF UNVIABLE MNC PLANTS IN NETHS, WHETHER DUTCH OR FOREIGN-OWNED, AND TO SET GUIDE-LINES FOR MNC OPERATIONS IN LDC'S. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT COMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST FOREIGN-BASED MNC'S OR MEASURES WHICH WILL UNDULY IMPINGE ON COMPETITIVENESS OF DUTCH-BASED MNC'S IN THEIR OPERATIONS IN DEVELOPED WORLD.
GOULD

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